

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

In the Office Action, claims 1-10, 16, 18-21, 31-33, and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,554,094 to *Viens*.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant respectfully submits that the amended features of independent claims 1, 16, and 33 are not taught or suggested by the applied references of record. Claims 12-15, 17, and 22-30 are withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 16, 18-21, 31-33, and 36-37 are pending for further consideration.

All Subject Matter Complies with 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-11, 16, 18-21, 31-33, and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,554,094 to *Viens*. Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness and therefore all rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Viens does not disclose at least “a control device that moves and sets components arranged along the single sheet path so that the sheet is transported through the single sheet path in accordance with the folding mode,” as recited in newly amended independent claims 1, 16, and 33. Accordingly, in view of the above amendments, claims 1-11, 16, 18-21, 31-33, and 36-37 are allowable and pending for further consideration.

As pointed out in M.P.E.P. § 2143.03, all the claimed limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art to establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention. Because

Viens fails to teach or suggest each feature of newly amended independent claims 1, 16, and 33, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn. Furthermore, claims 2-11, 18-21, 31-32, and 36-37 depend from one of independent claims 1, 16, and 33. Accordingly, claims 2-11, 18-21, 31-32, and 36-37 are also allowable because of the additional features they recite and the reasons stated above.

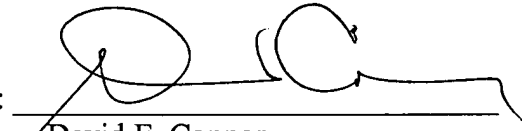
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the Response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 15, 2008

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